

12. A pharmaceutical composition comprising, as an active ingredient, a compound according to any one of the preceeding compound claims or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

13. A composition according to claim 12 in unit dosage form, comprising from about 10 to about 200 mg of the compound according to any one of the preceeding compound claims or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

14. A pharmaceutical composition for stimulating the release of growth hormone from the pituitary, the composition comprising, as an active ingredient, a compound according to any one of the preceeding compound claims or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

15. A pharmaceutical composition according to any one of the claims 12-14 for oral, nasal, transdermal, pulmonal, or parenteral administration.

16. A method of stimulating the release of growth hormone from the pituitary, the method comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to any one of the preceeding compound claims or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or of a composition according to any one of the preceeding composition claims .

17. A method of increasing the rate and extent of growth, the milk and wool production, or for the treatment of ailments, the method comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to any one of the preceeding compound claims or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or of a composition according to any one of the preceeding composition claims.

18. The method according to claim 16 or 17, wherein the effective amount of the compound according to any one of the preceeding compound claims or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof is in the range of from about
5 0.0001 to about 100 mg/kg body weight per day, preferably from about 0.001 to about 50 mg/kg body weight per day.

19. The method according to any one of the claims 16-18, wherein said
10 administration is carried out by the oral, nasal, transdermal, pulmonal, or parenteral
10 rate.

20. Use of a compound according to any one of the preceeding compound claims
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for the preparation of a
medicament.

21. Use of a compound according to any one of the preceeding compound claims
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for the preparation of a medicament
for stimulating the release of growth hormone from the pituitary.

22. Use of a compound according to any one of the preceeding compound claims
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for the preparation of a medicament
for administration to animals to increase their rate and extent of growth, to
increase their milk and wool production, or for the treatment of ailments.

23. Use of a compound according to any one of the preceeding compound claims
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for the preparation of a medicament
for the treatment of stimulation of growth hormone release in the elderly; prevention
of catabolic side effects of glucocorticoids, prevention and treatment of
osteoporosis, stimulation of the immune system, acceleration of wound healing,
30 accelerating bone fracture repair, treatment of growth retardation, treating renal
failure or insufficiency resulting from growth retardation, treatment of physiological
short stature including growth hormone deficient children and short stature

associated with chronic illness, treatment of obesity and growth retardation associated with obesity, treating growth retardation associated with the Prader-Willi syndrome and Turner's syndrome; accelerating the recovery and reducing hospitalization of burn patients; treatment of intrauterine growth retardation, skeletal dysplasia, hypercortisolism and Cushing's syndrome; induction of pulsatile growth hormone release; replacement of growth hormone in stressed patients, treatment of osteochondrodysplasias, Noonan's syndrome, schizophrenia, depressions, Alzheimer's disease, delayed wound healing and psychosocial deprivation, treatment of pulmonary dysfunction and ventilator dependency, attenuation of protein catabolic responses after major surgery, reducing cachexia and protein loss due to chronic illness such as cancer or AIDS; treatment of hyperinsulinemia including nesidioblastosis, adjuvant treatment for ovulation induction; to stimulate thymic development and prevent the age-related decline of thymic function, treatment of immunosuppressed patients, improvement in muscle strength, mobility, maintenance of skin thickness, metabolic homeostasis, renal homeostasis in the frail elderly, stimulation of osteoblasts, bone remodelling and cartilage growth, stimulation of the immune system in companion animals and treatment of disorder of aging in companion animals, growth promoter in livestock and stimulation of wool growth in sheep.